

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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R 180020Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1557

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 2420

USIA

FOR: IOP/MEDIA REACTION; IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS APRIL 17 EDITORIALY URGED THE U.S. TO MEDIATE THE AVIATION CONTENTION BETWEEN THE ROC AND JAPAN. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS
END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER ARE GIVING ATTENTION TO A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. SOME, SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST, ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. OTHERS, SUCH AS DR. KISSINGER'S DINNER FOR TENG HSIAO-PING, ARE NOT OF ANY CONSEQUENCE.

3. MEANWHILE, A SITUATION OF EXTREME GRAVITY IS DEVELOPING IN EAST ASIA BUT SEEMINGLY HAS ESCAPED THE ATTENTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

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4. JAPAN GIVES EVERY APPEARANCE OF PLANNING TO SIGN AN AVIATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS UNDER CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD BRING SEVERANCE OF AIR RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

5. PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER MAY BE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS INVOLVES ONLY THE SERVICES OF JAPAN AIR LINES AND CHINA AIRLINES BETWEEN JAPAN AND TAIWAN.

6. CAL COULD FLY TO THE UNITED STATES BY WAY OF GUAM. TRAFFIC BETWEEN JAPAN AND TAIWAN COULD BE HANDLED BY OTHER AIRLINES.

7. SO, THE AMERICANS MAY ASK, WHERE IS THE CRISIS?

8. THIS COUNTRY CANNOT PREVENT THE JAPANESE FROM FLYING TO THE CHINESE MAINLAND AND THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS FROM FLYING TO JAPAN. IT CANNOT PREVENT THE SIGNING OF A TOKYO-PEIPING AGREEMENT.

9. THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S CONCERN HAS NOT BEEN WITH THE FLIGHTS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE MAINLAND BUT WITH THE PROTECTION OF ITS OWN RIGHTS.

10. IF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SIGNS AN AGREEMENT WHICH VIOLATES OR SUPERSEDES ROC AVIATION RIGHTS IN JAPAN, THEN WE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO OBJECT, TO DECLINE TO ACCEPT THE RESTRICTIONS AND TO TAKE ACTION IN PROTECTION OF OUR OWN INTERESTS.

11. THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS THEREFORE INFORMED JAPAN THAT IN THE EVENT OF SUCH A SIGNING, CAL WILL IMMEDIATELY CEASE FLYING TO JAPAN AND WITHDRAW ITS GROUND INSTALLATIONS AND PERSONNEL. BY THE SAME TOKEN, JAL WILL BE BARRED FROM LANDING IN TAIWAN AND WILL BE UNWELCOME IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S AIRSPACE.

12. THIS WOULD BE THE CRISIS SITUATION. IF THE JAPANESE DECIDED TO CHALLENGE THE JURISDICTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND FLY TO HONGKONG VIA TAIWAN CIVIL OR MILITARY UNCLASSIFIED

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AIRSPACE, THE OFFENDING AIRCRAFT COULD BE FORCED TO LAND. THE OFFENDER MIGHT BE FINED OR CONFISCATED.

13. BOTH THE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED STATES MUST BE AWARE THAT THIS IS A PROSPECT FRAUGHT WITH DANGER. SUPPOSE THE JAPANESE DECLINE TO OBEY THE LEGITIMATE ORDERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S ARMED FORCES. OR SUPPOSE THEY DECIDE TO SEND A MILITARY

ESCORT WITH THEIR AIRLINERS.

14. A STATE OF WAR COULD EASILY BE BROUGHT INTO EXISTENCE BY SUCH INCIDENTS. BID CONFLICTS HAVE STARTED OVER SMALLER ISSUES.

15. THE CRISIS IS WHOLLY UNNECESSARY. THIS COUNTRY IS ASKING NOTHING. IT WISHES ONLY TO HAVE THE JAPANESE KEEP AGREEMENTS WHICH WERE ENTERED INTO LONG AGO.

16. JAPAN MAY CHANGE THE NAME OF THE AIRLINE WHICH SERVES TAIWAN. THAT IS JAPAN'S BUSINESS. WE DO NOT CARE.

17. CAL MUST CONTINUE FLYING TO JAPAN UNDER ITS RIGHTFUL AND LEGITIMATE NAME AND WITH ITS ROC INSIGNIA. THESE FLIGHTS MUST BE HANDLED BY GROUND CREWS AND OTHER PERSONNEL OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA JUST AS JAL'S FLIGHT IN TAIWAN ARE HANDLED BY JAPANESE.

18. IF THE JAPANESE WISH TO AVOID INCIDENTS OR UNPLEASANTNESSES BY JUGGLING THE SCHEDULES OF CAL AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST CARRIER, THAT IS JAPAN'S BUSINESS, SO LONG AS WE ARE NOT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST. WE ARE NOT AFRAID OF THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS. THE PROBLEM WILL NOT BE SERIOUS, ANYWAY, BECAUSE PEIPING WILL NOT HAVE MANY FLIGHTS TO JAPAN.

19. WE WANT NOTHING AND HAVE EVEN MADE THE CONCESSION OF ACCEPTING A JAL SUBSIDIARY SO THE JAPANESE CAN INDULGE THEMSELVES IN FANTASY AND THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS CAN PRETEND TO EXCLUSIVENESS. THE WHOLE THING WOULD BE FUNNY IF IT WERE NOT SO DEADLY SERIOUS.

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20. THE UNITED STATES IS THE FRIEND AND ALLY OF BOTH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND JAPAN. IF EVER THERE WAS A TIME FOR THE AMERICANS TO OFFER THEIR MEDIATION SERVICES TO TWO CLOSE ASSOCIATES, THIS IS IT.

21. SETTLEMENT IS NOT DIFFICULT. THE JAPANESE CAN HAVE THEIR FLIGHTS TO THE MAINLAND WITHOUT PAYING PEIPING'S PRICE. CHINESE COMMUNIST PLANES MUST LAND IN JAPAN ON THEIR FLIGHTS TO NORTH AMERICA. THEY ARE DEMANDING THAT JAPAN PUSH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AROUND ONLY BECAUSE THE JAPANESE APPEARED AND EVEN PLEASED TO DO SO.

22. THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS NOT GOING TO BE PUSHED AROUND. UNLESS THE UNITED STATES TAKES A HAND, THE EQUIVALENT OF A STATE OF WAR BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE ROC

COULD COME INTO EXISTENCE OVERNIGHT.

23. CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE UNPLEASANT, OR WORSE, FOR THE
TWO COUNTRIES, THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEACE OF FREE ASIA.
CLARKE

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